



# THE PACESSETTER

Volume II, Issue II, December 1986

## In The Holiday Spirit

by Matt Hennessee, City Manager

This is the most festive season of the year! The Mayor, City Council, and the City Administration join me in wishing you and your family many joys, health, and happiness during this holiday season. We further hope that you will take part in many celebrations, such as the Festival of Lights, and give to many charities such as the St. John's Church and EMU's Toys for Tots type programs.

Most of all, let us give to each other the intangible, yet priceless, gift of genuine human companionship and concern.

To date you have received five issues of THE PACESETTER, the City's vehicle to share information with you on a variety of issues such as snow removal, brush pick-up, building inspection, and special projects. The Editorial Staff would greatly appreciate hearing your comments which I am sure will improve the quality of this communication.

As we will only publish THE PACESETTER twice a year (August and December), it gives the Staff plenty of time to review your comments and evaluate the next issue.

Please let us know of your comments or concerns in one of the following ways: (A) contact your City Council representative; (B) write or call the City Manager's Office; (C) complete and return "Your Opinion Please" on page 4 of this issue; or (D) write a Letter to the Editor of THE PACESETTER or THE YPSILANTI PRESS. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Editorial Staff for their relentless dedication to the City and to you, the people of our community, for supporting our efforts and by calling or writing from time to time enabling us to better serve you.

Happy Holidays!

## Ypsilanti: The City of Lights

by Val Franklin  
Visitors and Convention Bureau

**Editorial Note:** *The City of Ypsilanti wishes to pay special tribute to Al Shelton, Detroit Edison, the employees of the Department of Public Works, Mike Kabott, and those numerous volunteers who have contributed hundreds of hours to make this festival possible.*

Ypsilanti's first annual Festival of Lights began as a dream; an idea that was talked about in terms of "what if" and "imagine." It was discussed briefly several years ago and then put aside. But it surfaced again this fall and, impossible as it sounded, with only a few weeks to plan, the pieces fell into place. When the switches were pulled at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 23, Riverside Park was transformed into a dazzling fantasy land of light.

Some of the ingredients necessary to make this dream a reality included over 20,000 light bulbs on 200 feet cord, 10,000 feet of wire, 16 lighted displays and hundreds and hundreds of volunteer hours. A project of this magnitude would not be possible without widespread community involvement and support of Ypsilanti residents.

Riverside Park is an ideal location to draw together many parts of the community, as it is a natural bridge between downtown and Depot Town, and the Festival of Lights provides another opportunity to showcase Ypsilanti's riverfront resource. Walking through this beautiful area it is easy to imagine horse-drawn sleighs and caroling against the backdrop of snow and glittering

jewels of light.

The Visitors and Convention Bureau is confident that the Festival of Lights will continue to grow bigger and brighter, with new displays and activities added each year. The festive spirit is contagious, and as individuals and whole neighborhoods are likely to participate with their own lighting displays, our city will become a "City of Lights."



*Al Shelton stringing lights in Riverside Park.*



## Nominating Petitions due December 29th

by Robert A. Slone, Jr.

Partisan nominating petitions for persons wishing to run for the office of Mayor or Councilmember for the February 16, 1987 primary election are available at the City Clerk's Office located at 1 S. Huron Street.

Petitions for the office of Mayor must be

signed by no less than 125, and no more than 200 registered electors of the City. Councilmember petitions must be signed by no less than 25 and no more than 50 registered electors residing in the ward from which a candidate seeks election.

The deadline for filing petitions with the City Clerk's Office is 4 p.m. Monday, December 29, 1986.

The successful candidates from the February 16 primary election will move forward to the April 6 general election.



## "THREE MAJOR CELEBRATIONS"

by The Editorial Staff

Many joys are celebrated during this time of year. Thanksgiving was recently celebrated as a formal opportunity to reflect on the many blessings received throughout the year. It is symbolic of the feast enjoyed by the Pilgrims and Indians shortly after the Pilgrims landed on the shores of this country.

There are also at least three major holidays celebrated during the month of December which have religious or cultural significance.



The event dedicated and celebrated in Jewish history as "Hanukkah" the Feast of Lights, is symbolic of the nation's struggle to maintain its spiritual identity against a superior force.

During the Hellenistic period in Jewish history, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (Greek ruler) slaughtered many Jews; those who were spared were forbidden to practice their faith. A revolt led initially by Mattathias, a priest, and later his son, Judah Maccabee, bought liberation to Jerusalem and dedication to the Temple for divine service.

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight nights, with candles lit each night. This year the celebration begins on December 27th. In many homes gifts are exchanged each night or only on one night, and many families light their candles in honor of the Soviet Jews who cannot practice their faith, to the plight of blacks in South Africa, or for other modern acts for religious or cultural suppression.



"Kwanzaa is a comparatively new celebration. This African-American custom was originated by Dr. Karenga, a California scholar and philosopher, in 1966. Dr. Karenga had completed an exhaustive study of traditional African societies and determined that each of them were built upon and guided by seven basic principles, which he called "Nguzo Saba," (pronounced Neguzo Saba).

These seven principles are: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. Kwanzaa is based on African harvest festivals and these principles are reaffirmed during a week-long celebration from December 26-January 1. This celebration of a lit candle symbolizes each principle.

After the death of Jesus, religious followers who believed Jesus to be the Messiah wanted to celebrate his birth and commemorate this event as a religious holiday. The Romans traditionally celebrated "Natalis Invicti" (a pagan festival) on what has been determined to be the last week of December (according to the modern calendar). By 386 AD church leaders established the celebration of "Christ Mass" (Christ's Coming) so that Christians could join the festival activities without bending to paganism. Therefore, December 25th has become the traditional date to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.



While "Christmas" is the celebration of Christ's birth, biblical scholars have depicted his birth to probably have been late March to mid April. This celebration is one of lights, songs, religious and spiritual renewal, thanksgiving, and physical and spiritual gift-giving. The gift-giving is symbolic of the gifts brought to Joseph and Mary on the night of Jesus's birth by the wisemen, the gifts of frankincense and myrrh. It was Isaiah who said "... unto us a child is born ... a son is given ... his name shall be called Prince of Peace ..."

## City Prepares for Cooperative Effort To Battle Winter Snow And Ice

by Mike Ager

As winter approaches the staff of the City's Department of Public Works turn their attention toward keeping Ypsilanti's 58 miles of streets clear of snow and ice.

First priority for removal goes to Ypsilanti's 25 miles of state trunk lines and major streets which are cleared during both day and night hours immediately after snowfall occurs. Thirty-three miles of neighborhood streets which are divided into five districts are the next priority. These streets are normally addressed during daylight hours to provide equipment operators with maximum visibility for parked cars and pedestrians. While clearing the neighborhood streets, however, it is important to note that snowplows may return to the state trunk lines and major streets at any time to keep these roadways open for maximum safety.

If the snowfall becomes excessively dangerous the City Manager may declare a weather emergency. Announcements over the local radio stations to this effect would cause a prohibition of parking on primary snow routes. Signs mark these streets throughout the City and vehicles that are parked on these streets would be towed so snow can be effectively removed. Residents should cooperate with this restriction during emergency weather conditions.

Property owners are reminded that the current City snow removal ordinance requires them to keep their own City sidewalks clear of snow and ice. Walks must be cleared at least 48 hours from each snowfall. The City is looking forward to another winter involving a cooperative effort between City crews and property owners in keeping travel routes clear and safe.



by Jon Ichesco





## Local Service Organizations Conduct Holiday Programs

by Doug Fouty

Every year many Ypsilanti Area organizations develop formal programs to help the less fortunate have a happy holiday. While many of the area organizations are willing to receive donations of food, clothing and money, the below examples are three which provide holiday programs as one central theme of their services.

### Goodfellows

Program - Children's Christmas  
Contact Person - Leonard Stark 482-4900  
(Stark Funeral Services); Frank Dugus  
483-3542 (Ypsilanti Savings Bank)  
Program Objective - Working with the  
Salvation Army, the Goodfellows provide  
food, clothing and gifts for children.

### Salvation Army

Program - Holiday Gift  
Contact Person - Addie Runter, supervisor  
of Social Work 482-4700  
Program Objective - Provide food, clothing  
and toys for area families. Groups,  
agencies, and churches can adopt families  
for the holiday program and the Department  
of Social Services helps identify  
needy families. To receive the service  
please call 485-3227.

### Eastern Michigan University Student Veterans Association

Program - Toys for Tots  
Contact Person - Melody Harris 487-3045  
Pierce Hall Room 303  
Program Objective - Working under the  
USMC Reserve program toys are provided  
to children of ages birth to 14. The service  
is for Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor low income  
families. Toys should be new, in original  
wrapping, with a value of \$5 or more and  
not war toys or food. For convenience drop  
off sites are located at the K-Marts on  
Washtenaw and Golf Village, Kroger on East  
Washtenaw, Campbells Jewlery in downtown  
Ypsilanti, WSDS on Clark Road and  
Marshalls in Arborland.

## Holiday Hours for Municiple Buildings

City Hall, Building Inspection and Ypsilanti Housing Commission offices will be closed for the holidays at 12:30 p.m. December 23 until 8 a.m. January 5, 1987.

The City Clerk's Office will be open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. December 29, to accept and check nominating petitions at City Hall.

Parkridge Community and the Senior Citizens Centers will be closed December 24, until January 5, 1987.

Tax bills may be paid by mail or at the National Bank of Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti Savings Bank offices or the City Hall drop box on S. Huron St. The following phone numbers may be called in case of emergency:

482-3311 ..... Fire Department  
483-9510 ..... Police Department  
482-7894 ..... Rubbish Pick-up  
484-4600... Ypsilanti Utilities Auth.  
(Water & Sewage)

We wish all a happy holiday season.

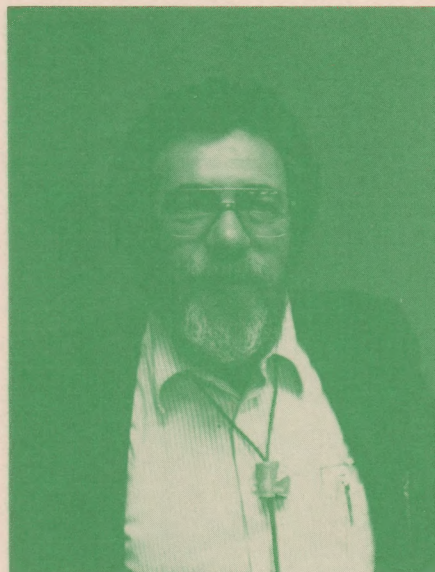
## Richard Witte Community Profile

by John Barr

"Cheerful service" is the motto of the Order of the Arrow (OA) an honorary Boy Scout fraternity, and Scout advisor Richard Witte exemplifies this motto. For more than eight years Rich has helped to organize many fund raising events as an advisor to the OA.

He believes in helping young people and as a former Scoutmaster of Troop 290 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Rich continues to serve on the Troop Committee, and is a past Assistant and District Commissioner for the Washington District BSA.

The City pays tribute to this member of the Ypsilanti Community who devotes a great deal of his time and energy toward the education and enrichment of our youth.



## City Councilmembers

(Ward)

Mayor Peter J. Murdock	485-7799
Mayor Pro-Tem Eula M. Tate -1-	485-3865
Albert A. Robinson	-1- 482-5861
Clyde K. King	-2- 483-3104
Michael W. Homel	-2- 483-2499
Kevin McCormick	-3- 484-0617
Eric B. Smith	-3- 483-8633
John Van Bolt	-4- 483-6972
Beverly A. Fish	-4- 484-1897
Lynda Hummel	-5- 483-5861
Jerold W. Bubenhofer	-5- 485-4723



(Mayor and City Manager discuss holiday plans).



## Happy New Year From the City of Ypsilanti!

As most members of the Community review their year's activities and begin to plan for 1987, the City also reflects on just some of its many accomplishments in 1986 and goals for 1987:

### Accomplishments in 1986

- The continued and improved quality of services the community expects ie, garbage pick up, tax collection and assessments, elections, etc;
- The Huron Center financing is now completed and ready for ground breaking;
- Rehabilitation of 19 commercial store fronts;
- The Computer System in Municipal Buildings is now installed and fully operative;
- Phase II of Ypsilanti's West Industrial Park is completed;
- Events and Activities continue to boost the City's image such as:
  - The Festival of Lights
  - Waltec Jobs Team Award
  - Michigan Munciple League Image Award
  - United Way campaign 26% over goal
- Huron River Corridor Plans continue by:
  - Peninsula Park Ground breaking (right)
  - Grant Applications submitted for Parking at Frog Island Park and Phase II for Waterworks Parks
  - Refined Master Plan for entire corridor.
- Continued Rehabilitation and Reduced Vacancy Rate at Public Housing Units;
- Ordinance #624, Multiple Inspection Program completes first two years;

- Establishment of Southside Task Force;
- Department of Public Works establishes a Tree Trimming Program, Street paving Program and Implements \$2.2 million in Water Main Improvements;
- Decision to locate EMU College of Business in Downtown; and
- Increased response time acheived at both Police and Fire Departments.

### Priorities for 1987

- Sidewalk Repair Program;
- Groundbreaking for Ypsilanti Commons;
- To develop a comprehensive "works" maintenance program;
- To develop a systematic citizen's complaint procedure;
- To develop alternative strategies for crime prevention;

- Groundbreaking for EMU Business School;
- Rehabilitation of Four-Hills Apartments;
- Rehabilitation of Gilbert Mansion in Luxury Apartments;
- Rehabilitation of Amtrak Depot into a Restaurant;
- Rehabilitation of ten (10) commercial storefronts;
- Rehabilitation of 72 Public Housing Units;
- Three (3) communities propose to join YCUA (Ypsilanti Community Utilities Authority);
- Application for the All American City Award;
- Proposed Open House of City Hall in celebration of 100th Anniversary of Building;
- Continuation of Huron River Corridor Master Plan.



(Lana Pollack, Gary Owen, Pete Murdock, Gerry Linsmeyer, Kevin McCormick at grounding for Peninsular Park)

## Separations from City Hall Family

	DATE	POSITION
Woodside, Paul	2/22/86	Fire Depart.
Bailey, Don	4/05/86	Police Depart.
Coe, Judith	4/23/86	Police Depart.
Chapman, George	4/25/86	Bld. Ins. Div.
Rutley, Kenneth	6/09/86	Public Works
Roach, Chris	7/04/86	Police Dept.
Holder, Kenneth	7/04/86	Police Dept.
Karch, Loren	7/18/86	Fire Depart.
Hayes, Aprill	7/25/86	Pbl. Hsng. Com.
Szych, Ron	8/01/86	Police Depart.
Vincent, Michael	8/09/86	Police Depart.
Lewis, Calvin	9/01/86	Pk Rdg Com Ctr
Daniels, Malcolm	9/26/86	Public Works
Tait, Jane	10/03/86	Clerk's Office
Lupi, Robert	10/03/86	Assess./Treas.
Condron, Joseph	10/16/86	Police Depart.
Parks, Patricia	10/22/86	Cntrlrs. Office

## NEW HIRES

1/01/86 - 11/14/86

NEW HIRES	DATE	POSITION
Jackson, Diane	6/02/86	Exec. Secretary
Walter, Richard	6/16/86	Police Officer
Lopez, Oscar	6/17/86	Police Officer
Becker, Andrew	6/18/86	Police Officer
Wells, Michael	7/02/86	Firefighter
Roe, John	7/02/86	Firefighter
Hobbs, Stephen	7/02/86	Firefighter
Evou, Duane	7/02/86	Housing Inspec.
Parks, Willie	7/02/86	Vhculr. Ser. At.
Williams, Evelyn	8/25/86	Office Assistant
Rush, Horace	9/01/86	Police Cadet
O'Leary, Daniel	9/08/86	Police Officer
Smith, Carolyn	9/29/86	Police Officer
Newton, Keith	10/13/86	Police Officer
Angott, Mark	10/20/86	Police Officer
Moore, Jimmy	10/20/86	Polc. Chf/Cnslt.
Phillips, Ken	10/27/86	Vhculr. Ser. At.
Robison, Jill	10/27/86	Pkg. Enfr. Aide

## Your Opinion Please

What articles do you like to read?

Should the newsletter contain more City news?

What was the best article in the newsletter?

What would you like to see changed?

Is the newsletter timely?

Are the articles relevant?